

To the Honorable Terry Gerratana and the Honorable Matthew Ritter,

It was a pleasure meeting with you a few weeks ago in reference to the expansion of the language of the Senate Bill #353- An Act Concerning Opioid Abuse and the integration of the NADA Protocol by Acupuncture Detox Specialists (ADS) in addressing this crisis.

We want to be clear that ADS's (who have received a certificate of training from the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA) after a minimum of 70 hours of training to use as an adjunct intervention in Behavioral Health treatment), are not Licensed Acupuncturists (who have spent years in training).

I am in support of section 2h of Senate Bill 353. However, in response to the growth of drug-related deaths in Connecticut, I am respectfully requesting that the current acupuncture detox law be clarified and expanded to assure that the NADA protocol can benefit all our at-risk populations.

The current acudetox law provides for auricular acupuncture, using the NADA Protocol, in state licensed substance abuse facilities with indirect MD supervision. We are respectfully requesting to allow NADA-trained, licensed and/or certified health care providers : RN, APRN, PA, Licensed Addiction Counselors, Family therapists and Social Workers to use the NADA protocol in their independent private practices without supervision. In addition, it is our proposal that a NADA trainer may provide indirect supervision to a non-licensed ADS performing community auricular acupuncture. In 30 years of insuring ADS's, there has never been a claim against any practitioner.

This would allow access to a broader population in settings such as homeless shelters, AIDS clinics, college campuses, hospice, hospitals and first responder locations which are all areas where substance abuse may begin.

Since 1974 NADA has advocated for community wellness. Providing auricular acupuncture enhances the menu of services for clinicians to address the current opiate crisis using a drug-free intervention that has been proven to support engagement and retention in treatment.

Thank you for your time and your continued support in addressing the behavioral health challenges we are facing in our state. We believe that together, we will make the difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this bill.

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